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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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BHE

NOVEMBER 14, 1946

THIS HARVEST A FOURTH BETTER THAN AVERAGE

Aggregate production of crops this year estimated at 127 percent of the 1923-32 average and 3 points above previous peak of the index. *Yields per acre* 134 percent of average; exceeded only by previous high yield index of 136 percent in 1942.

Production of small grains 165 million tons, largest quantity ever harvested.

An important crop item for farmers is the total of field seeds, alfalfa, red clover, alsike, sweet clover, timothy and sudan grass, estimated 303 million pounds of clean seed, 12 percent more than last year and 4 percent above 1940-44 average.

MINOR CROPS GOOD

11 Main truck crops for commercial processing near 1942 record. Green lima beans 42,000 tons, 21 percent above previous record. Cucumbers 9,879,000 bushels, 19 percent above previous record.

Sweet potatoes estimated 66.7 million bushels, about like last year's crop and average.

Peanuts for picking and threshing estimated 2,061 million pounds, virtually same as last year and compares with 1941-45 average of 2,009 million pounds.

Dry beans about 15 million bags (uncleaned) compared with 13.6 million bags last year and 16.4 million bags average.

Soybeans estimated 192 million bushels, about like last year and exceeded only by the 193 million bushel crop of 1943.

Rice nearly 70 million bushels, compared with 70 million bushels last year and 55 million bushels average.

Buckwheat estimated 7,289,000 bushels, 9 percent larger than last year and about an average crop.

Cranberries estimated 833,100 barrels, compared with 656,800 barrels average.

RECORD FRUIT CROPS

Total of 9 deciduous fruits 10 million tons, 19 percent above last year, 14 percent above average and 2 percent above previous record. Commercial apple crop 121 million bushels; about three-fourths more than last year's small crop and about equal to 1935-44 average.

FEWER WALNUTS AND PECANS

California walnuts 59,000 tons compared with 64,000 tons last year and 55,420 tons average. Walnuts damaged considerably by September heat in California.

California almonds 35,100 tons compared with previous record of 23,800 tons last year and average of 14,710 tons.

Pilberts in Oregon and Washington 8,950 tons, a record crop.

Pecan crop now estimated 77.2 million pounds, 44 percent under last year and smallest crop since 1942. Bad weather and insects cut the crop in most producing States. Improved varieties estimated 34.5 million pounds, 40 percent under last year and 20 percent below average.

SMALLEST COTTON CROP IN YEARS

Based on November 1 conditions cotton crop estimated 8,487,000 bales. This is 237,000 bales under the October 1 forecast. It is 528,000 bales less than the 1945 crop and nearly 4,100,000 bales less than the 10-year average (1935-44). It is the second smallest cotton crop in 51 years; the smallest was 7,945,000 bales in 1921. Crop in Texas estimated at only 1,700,000 bales compared with 1,794,000 last year and 3,137,000 average.

SUGAR

Crop of sugar cane for sugar and seed estimated 6,394,000 tons compared with 6,767,000 tons last year and 5,873,000 tons average.

Sugar beet crop estimated 11,159,000 tons, 29 percent above last year and 17 percent above average. Some losses may result from freezing in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Montana.

Total deliveries of sugar by the primary distributors in the United States for 9 months January-September, 4,679,205 short tons, raw value, compared with 5,085,597 tons in like period last year. Deliveries for export 353,127 tons, compared with 268,593 tons last year. Total delivered for U. S. consumption 4,326,078 tons, compared with 4,817,004 tons last year.

Maple sugar crop of 1946 was estimated 337,000 pounds compared with 237,000 pounds last year, 434,000 in 1940 and 6,928,000 in 1920. Maple syrup 1,354,000 gallons this year compared with 991,000 gallons last year, 2,597,000 gallons in 1940, and 3,131,000 gallons in 1920. (See new publication "Maple Products 1916-1946").

MILK OUTPUT 2 PERCENT LOWER

October milk production estimated 8.9 billion pounds, down seasonally from the 9.4 billion in September; was 2 percent below the 9.1 billion pounds in October 1945. Fewer cows but heavy production per cow due to mild weather and ample feed. Milk production first 10 months this year totaled 103.3 billion pounds, about 2.3 billion under like period of 1945. October milk production per capita of total population averaged 2.03 pounds; was lower than any October in previous 6 years but about like 1935-44 average.

FEWER HENS - MORE EGGS

Hens laid 3,172 million eggs in October, 2 percent more than year ago and 35 percent above average.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Sept. 15 1946	Oct. 15 1946	Oct. 15 1946
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.79	1.88	1.83
Corn, bu. dol.	1.73	1.71	1.33
Peanuts, lb. ct.	8.98	8.78	9.94
Cotton, lb. ct.	35.30	37.69	25.67
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.28	1.22	1.52
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	15.70	23.00	15.00
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	15.20	18.10	11.20
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	15.50	17.00	14.00
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	15.80	17.50	12.20
Butterfat, lb. ct.	75.6	90.0	56.1
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	4.55	4.73	3.53
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	29.3	34.4	23.6
Eggs, doz. ct.	44.5	51.5	50.7

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

Compared with average, slightly fewer hens laid one-third more eggs. Total egg production during first 10 months, 48.1 billion eggs, 2 percent under like period last year--corresponds with 2 percent reduction in average number of layers on hand during period.

Number layers during October, 344 million, 3 percent under year ago but 13 percent above average. Potential layers November 1 (hens and pullets plus young pullets) 489 million, about 9 percent under year ago and 3 percent below 1940-44 average. This included 127 million young pullets not of laying age, 25 percent fewer than year ago and 18 percent below 5-year average.

Average prices received by farmers for eggs in mid-October, 51.5 cents a dozen, highest for the month since 1920. Turkey prices to farmers averaged 40.6 cents a pound live weight, also highest on record; compares with 32.5 cents year ago and average of 19.9 cents.

A FEW MORE FARM WORKERS - RECORD WAGES

Number of workers on farms October 1 estimated 11,486,000 compared with 11,052,000 a year ago and 12,389,000 the 1935-39 average. Number of family workers 8,862,000 compared with 8,558,000 last year and 9,190,000 average. Number of hired workers 2,624,000 compared with 2,494,000 last year and 3,199,000 average.

Farm wages at the beginning of October were the highest on record. The average wage per day without board was \$4.94, compared with \$4.39 a year ago and \$1.55 the October 1 average 1935-39. General farm wages this fall are 10 percent above last fall. Wages per day without board averaged \$8.51 on the Pacific Coast and \$3.29 in the East South Central States; wages averaged above \$6.00 a day over most of the country outside the South.

FARM RECEIPTS

Total cash receipts of farmers for products sold during September \$2,207 million compared with \$1,883 million a year ago. These figures include \$13 million Government payments this September and \$16 million a year ago. Total receipts for 9 months January-September \$15,969 million compared with \$14,850 million last year. These totals include \$765 million Government payments this year compared with \$607 million last year.

MARKETING CHARGES UP

Charges for marketing a family market basket of farm food products rose from annual rate of \$257 in July to \$270 in August. Latter figure highest since June 1927 and was 34 percent above the 5-year pre-war average (\$201).

The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products was 53 cents in August, same as

in 3 months preceding.

MORE CATTLE ON FEED - PRICES UP

October shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into Cornbelt largest on record, 14 percent more than October last year. Movement into Iowa and Illinois very heavy. Shipments into 8 cornbelt States for 4 months July-October, 1,622,000 head compared with 1,315,000 in 1945, an increase of about 23 percent. Shipments into other Cornbelt States heavier even than in 1940, with especially heavy movement direct to wheat pastures in Kansas.

Cattle feeding States outside the Cornbelt show considerable reduction in feeding under last year.

October average price of stocker and feeder steers at 4 leading markets \$16.74, nearly \$4.00 higher than year ago. Cost of an average steer shipped from these markets, \$124.50 compared with \$95.70 last year.

FEWER LAMBS ON FEED

Number of lambs fed during current season will be somewhat smaller than year ago but about like 1940-44. Shipments of lambs into 8 States July-October total about 7 percent less than last year. However, Iowa shipped in 26 percent more; but Nebraska only 57 percent as many as in 1945 (it usually is the largest lamb feeding State in the Cornbelt). Lamb shipments into Kansas from stockyards July-October down about 17 percent but figures on total movement are not available.

SMALLER STOCKS OF GRAIN ON HAND

Total stocks of wheat on and off farms October 1 reported 956 million bushels compared with 1,030 million bushels year previous; old corn 178 million bushels compared with 325 million bushels year ago; oats 1,237 million bushels compared with 1,390 million bushels a year ago; barley 231 million bushels compared with 249 million bushels a year ago; rye 15 million bushels compared with 22 million bushels year ago. Wheat stocks smallest for

this date in five years; old corn smallest in 4 years of record; oats relatively large; barley and rye small.

SMALL SUPPLIES OF FATS AND OILS

Total import of fats and oils in 1947 probably will not be much more than 1 billion pounds compared with 2 billion pounds imported annually in pre-war years. Moderate decline in domestic output in 1946-47 crop year; also, stocks of fats and oils October 1 were lowest in 18 years, 400 million pounds less than year ago and about 700 million pounds below 1932-41 average that date.

MORE FARMS SOLD

Volume of farm real estate sales in 6 northeastern counties, second quarter of 1946, was 25 percent above same quarter 1945, though total acreage sold is up only 5 percent. Prices average 25 percent higher this year.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	Oct. 1946
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	273
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	207
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	132
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	272
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	---
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	389
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	428
RATIOS	LONG-TIME Oct. - AVERAGE	Oct. 1946
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . .	12.9	13.5
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. .	26.4	30.4
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	1.37	1.44
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . .	15.3	13.7
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Sept. 1945	Jan.-Sept. 1946
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	96.5	94.4
Eggs, (Bil.)	45.7	44.9
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	5,308	3,917
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	669	643
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . .	5,784	5,973
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	12,296	10,937
Factory pay roll per employed worker, Sept. figure.		

